CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A central unit for formatting and preparing numbers for display comprising:

a microphone port adapted to receive information from a microphone;

a display port adapted to interact with a display device;

wherein the central unit receives microphone information from the microphone port and

determines if the information includes numbers or words;

if numbers are received, determines if the numbers include a telephone number or a non-telephone number; and

if a telephone number is received, formats the telephone number using a predetermined telephone number format including at least one separation character.

2. The central unit according to claim 1, wherein a second format is used to format a non-telephone number.

3. The central unit according to claim 1, wherein the central unit detects an actuation of a talk button and uses the actuation to insert a separation character.

4. The central unit according to claim 1, wherein the central unit detects at least one pause in the microphone information.

5. The central unit according to claim 4, wherein the central unit inserts a separator character in a location corresponding to the pause.

6. The central unit according to claim 4, wherein the pause is determined if a period of relative silence equals or exceeds a preset duration.

7. The central unit according to claim 1, wherein the microphone information includes groups of numbers and pauses separating the groups of numbers, and wherein the central unit converts the microphone information into a string of machine readable characters, and wherein the central unit places a separation character in a location corresponding to a pause.

8. The central unit according to claim 1, wherein the telephone number is formatted using a predetermined telephone number format and any pause is disregarded.

9. The central unit according to claim 1, wherein a second format is used to format a non-telephone number and the formatted number is sent to the display port.

10. A method of formatting and preparing numbers for display comprising the steps of:

receiving microphone information from a microphone port;

determining if the microphone information includes words or numbers;

determining if the numbers include a telephone number;

if the numbers include a telephone number, then formatting the number using a first format to produce a first formatted number;

if the numbers do not include a telephone number, then formatting the number using a second format to produce a second formatted number; and

wherein the first format is different than the second format.

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of receiving information from a talk button and using the information to insert a separation character.

12. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of detecting at least one pause in the microphone information.

13. The central unit according to claim 12, wherein a separator character is inserted in a location corresponding to the pause.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein the microphone information includes groups of numbers and pauses separating the groups of numbers, and wherein the central unit converts the microphone information into a string of machine readable characters, and wherein the central unit places a separation character in a location corresponding to a pause.

15. The method according to claim 10, wherein the telephone number is formatted using a predetermined telephone number format and any pause is disregarded.

16. A motor vehicle comprising:

a chassis,

at least one wheel adapted to contact a driving surface;

an interior comprising a steering wheel, a dashboard and a driver's seat;

a hands free telephone (HFT) system comprising a microphone disposed in a headliner, at least one HFT control disposed on the steering wheel, and a display,

wherein the HFT system receives a dictated string of information, formats the information and displays the information, and

wherein the HFT system applies a first format to a first type of information and applies a second format to a second type of information.

17. The motor vehicle according to claim 16, wherein the first type of information is a telephone number.

18. The motor vehicle according to claim 16, wherein the HFT system is capable of detecting pauses in the string of information.

19. The motor vehicle according to claim 16, wherein the HFT system uses a pause in the string of information for the second format and inserts a separation character in a location corresponding to the pause.

20. The motor vehicle according to claim 16, wherein the HFT system displays formatted information.